

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/781,496

Examiner

BARBARA N. BURGESS

Applicant(s)

ARAI, TOSHIYUKI

Art Unit

2457

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed February 3, 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8,20,22-29 and 33.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 6-1-09
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/ARIO ETIENNE/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2457

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawrence Russ on Monday, June 1, 2009.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **CANCEL** claims 30-32, 34-36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 20 as follow:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information processing system, comprising:

a first information processing apparatus capable of transmitting information to a terminal device;

a second information processing apparatus capable of transmitting information to the terminal device;

said first information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving, after the terminal device has accessed said first information processing apparatus, a request signal from the terminal device to obtain information by which a user operating the terminal device may access said second information processing apparatus,

user identifier generating means for generating a user identifier identifying the user operating the terminal device in response to the request signal, generation source identifier storage means for storing a generation source identifier that is assigned to said first information processing apparatus by the second information processing apparatus and which is provided by the second information processing apparatus, the generation source identifier identifying said first information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier and as introducer of the user operating the terminal device,

first transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the second information processing apparatus to enable the second information processing apparatus to record the user identifier and the generation source identifier as associated entries in a data base, and

second transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the terminal device to enable the terminal device to request access to the second information processing apparatus by sending the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the second information processing apparatus,

said second information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving the user identifier and the generation source identifier from the terminal device,

authenticating means for authenticating the received user identifier and the received generation source identifier to permit access to stored information associated with said second information processing apparatus, wherein the authenticating means of the second information processing apparatus comprises a generation source processor for outputting generation source information or no-generation source information based on a result of a comparison of the received generation source identifier and the at least one previously stored generation source identifier; and

wherein the generation source processor updates a point value that corresponds to the generation source identifier indicating the generation source based on the result of the comparison; and

wherein said second information processing apparatus further comprises homepage information storage means for storing homepage information, and wherein the payment processing means converts the point value to an amount of currency and generates a signal for causing payment of the amount of currency to the first information processing apparatus, the signal serving a settlement signal having an identifier corresponding to a homepage of a payment source, an account number associated with the received generation source identifier, and information concerning the paid amount of currency;

payment processing means for executing a process to pay an introduction fee to said first information processing apparatus in response to successful authentication of the received user identifier and the received generation source identifier, said first information processing apparatus being identified using the received generation source identifier as the introducer of the user operating the terminal device; and

a link from said first information processing apparatus directly to said second information processing apparatus, said second information processing apparatus being accessible by said first information processing apparatus through said link.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information processing method, comprising:

receiving, at a first information processing apparatus after the first information processing apparatus is accessed by a terminal device, a request signal from the terminal device to obtain information by which a user operating the terminal device may access a second information processing apparatus that is external to the first information processing apparatus;

generating, at the first information processing apparatus, a user identifier identifying the user operating the terminal device in response to the request signal;

storing, at the first information processing apparatus, a generation source identifier that is assigned to the first information processing apparatus by the second information

processing apparatus and which is provided by the second information processing apparatus, the generation source identifier identifying the first information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier and as introducer of the user operating the terminal device;

transmitting, from the first information processing apparatus to the second information processing apparatus, the user identifier and the generation source identifier to enable the second information processing apparatus to record the user identifier and the generation source identifier as associated entries in a data base;

transmitting, from the first information processing apparatus to the terminal device, the user identifier and the generation source identifier to enable the terminal device to request access to the second information processing apparatus by sending the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the second information processing apparatus;

receiving, at the second information processing apparatus, the user identifier and the generation source identifier from the terminal device;

authenticating, at the second information processing apparatus, the received user identifier and the received generation source identifier to permit access to stored information associated with the second information processing apparatus, wherein the authenticating step includes outputting generation source information or no-generation source information based on a result of a comparison of the received generation source identifier and a previously stored generation source identifier;

wherein the authenticating step includes updating a point value that corresponds to the generation source identifier indicating the generation source based on the result of the comparison;

storing homepage information, and wherein the executing step includes converting the point value to an amount of currency and generating a signal for causing payment of the amount of currency to the first information processing apparatus, the signal serving a settlement signal having an identifier corresponding to a homepage of a payment source, an account number associated with the received generation source identifier, and information concerning the paid amount of currency;

executing a process, at the second information processing apparatus, to pay an introduction fee to the first information processing apparatus in response to successful authentication of the received user identifier and the received generation source identifier, the first information processing apparatus being identified using the received generation source identifier as the introducer of the user operating the terminal device; and

the second information processing apparatus being accessible by the first information processing apparatus through a link from the first information processing apparatus directly to the second information processing apparatus.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BARBARA N. BURGESS whose telephone number is (571)272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Barbara N Burgess/
Examiner, Art Unit 2457

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2457

June 1, 2009

/ARIO ETIENNE/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2457